



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES

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Governor

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Mark D. Birdwhistell
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Shawn M. Crouch
Commissioner

November 8, 2007

**TO: Other Lab & X-ray (86) Provider Letter # A-17
Hearing Aid Dealers (50) Provider Letter # A-24**

RE: NPI numbers

Dear *KyHealth Choices* Provider:

Health Plans assign identification numbers to their providers of health care services and suppliers. A health plan may be, among other things, a Federal program such as Medicare, a state Medicaid program, or a private health plan. The identifiers the health plan assigns are frequently not standardized within a single health plan or across health plans, which results in the single health care provider having different identification (provider) numbers for each health plan and often having multiple billing numbers issued within the same health plan. This complicates the health care provider's claims submission process. As a result, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have developed a health care provider identification system that will be used nationally to uniquely identify all health care providers.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 mandated the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health care providers, as well as the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health plans. The purpose of these provisions is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electronic transmission of health information.

CMS has developed the National Provider Identifier (NPI) which will be the standard unique identifier for each health care provider. The NPI is based on information collected by CMS and will be unique to you and follow you through your career as a health care professional. A health care provider is defined as "any person or organization that furnishes, bills, or is paid for health care in the normal course of business." Individual health care providers who are members or employees of an organization who provides health care services are not considered "subparts" of those organizations. Individual health care providers are legal entities in their own right.

(Please see reverse side)



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As such, *KyHealth Choices* is alerting you, as a health care professional billing for health care services, to the necessity of obtaining a National Provider Identifier (NPI). CMS has developed the National Plan and Provider Enumerator System (NPPES) to assign these unique identifiers. We are providing you with the links to assist you in the process of obtaining your NPI free of charge.

For background information: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/np/01_overview.asp

For instructions and an application:
<http://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.npistart>

For application help:
<http://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Help.do?topic=ContactInformation>

For help with getting started: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>

For a paper application:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/Downloads/NPIapplication.pdf>

For educational resources:
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/04_education.asp#TopOfPage

Upon obtaining your NPI please make sure to send your FOX verification letter to ***KyHealth Choices***, NPI/Taxonomy, P.O. Box 2110, Frankfort, Ky. 40602 or you may fax to (502) 607-8401. It is possible that a few disciplines *may* not be required to obtain an NPI. If you apply and receive a denial letter, please forward this to *KyHealth Choices* as well. We will require some type of documentation from each provider regarding the acquisition or denial of the NPI. CMS can mandate NPI at anytime so it is suggested that you obtain your NPI as soon as possible.

If you have questions, feel free to contact *KyHealth Choices* at (877) 838-5085, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. eastern time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn M. Crouch", written over a horizontal line.

Shawn M. Crouch
Commissioner